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JUL 6 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: "Information from Peiping
Concerning the Geneva
Conference"--Evaluation of

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum of 2 July 1954

1. The attached memorandum is typical of a great volume of incoming information on top-level Sino-Soviet relations. As is usually the case, this information cannot be proved to be true or false.

2. It is not known whether Moscow and Peiping have a specific agreement on Soviet intervention or nonintervention on Communist China's behalf in the event of American military intervention in Indochina. The Sino-Soviet treaty of February 1950 provides that if either party is attacked by Japan or any state allied with Japan the other "shall immediately render military and other assistance by all means at its disposal," but these terms are sufficiently elastic to permit the USSR in any given instance to determine for itself the degree of assistance it will provide. Both Moscow and Peiping have made statements in the past three months suggesting that Communist China would intervene on a large-scale in Indochina if the United States were to intervene, and that the Soviet Union would support the Chinese, but these statements have not committed either party to any definite course of action.

3. It is true that the Communists at Geneva are attempting to detach France from the United States and Britain (and to detach Britain from the United States), and to detach Laos and Cambodia from France and Vietnam by a more conciliatory approach to Laos and Cambodia. This may be known, however, merely by reading the public press.

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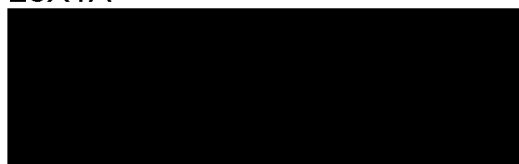
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4. Hong Kong is the principal center for the collection of rumors about, and for the fabrication of intelligence reports on, top-level developments in Communist China. The most skillful rumor-mongers and fabricators use both the Chinese and foreign press for background material to give their reports an air of plausibility, and they are usually careful to offer information which cannot be demonstrated beyond doubt to be spurious.

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5. [REDACTED] may be acting entirely in good faith. It seems highly probable, however, that some of the source's subsources are presenting as facts material which they know to be rumor or fabrication. There is the additional possibility that the Communists themselves have planted this information, and are awaiting an evaluation of it, in order to obtain clues on American policy.

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ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

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